

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
/077 W

-----006000 172226Z /73

P 172001Z AUG 78  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1432  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0284

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CA  
SUBJ: RYAN COMMENTS ON REGINA

REF: QUEBEC 0246

1. IN FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT SINCE HIS RETURN FROM VACATION, QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY CHIEF CLAUDE RYAN VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR POSITION ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM TAKEN BY PROVINCIAL PREMIERS IN REGINA LAST WEEK. RYAN REPEATED HIS EARLIER WARNINGS TO OTTAWA (REFTEL) THAT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM MUST BE UNDERTAKEN JOINTLY BY THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN ALL AREAS, AND THAT UNILATERAL MEASURES BY OTTAWA WOULD DOOM THE WHOLE PROCESS. HE REITERATED AS WELL THAT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD EMBRACE ALL ASPECTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, BUT THAT THE REDISTRIBUTION OF POWERS BETWEEN THE TWO LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT REMAINS THE "KEY SUBJECT" TO BE BROACHED.

2. ON QUEBEC'S PERFORMANCE AT REGINA, RYAN CONGRATULATED THE GOVERNMENT FOR "DECIDING AT LAST TO ACT LIKE A GOOD PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, AS IT HAD PROMISED IN NOVEMBER 1976." IT IS CLEAR, RYAN SAID, THAT IF THE GOQ REFRAINS FROM "CONSTANTLY BRANDISHING THE MENACE OF SEPARATION" AND CONDUCTS UNCLASSIFIED

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ITSELF RESPONSIBLY, THEN CONSTRUCTIVE REFORMS ARE POSSIBLE WITHIN THE PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT. RYAN WARNED THAT THE GOQ HAD ACTED CONTRUCTIVELY IN REGINA, HOWEVER, ONLY BECAUSE "IT HAD NO CHOICE." ONE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE REAL OBJECTIVE OF THIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT A RENEWED FEDERALISM BUT THE POLITICAL SEPARATION OF QUEBEC. "BETWEEN THE RENEWED FEDERALISM DESIRED BY MOST QUEBECERS AND THE SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION

WHICH IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE LEVESQUE GOVERNMENT, THERE IS MORE  
THAN JUST A DIFFERENCE OF DEGREE. THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL  
INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THE TWO OPTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT IS  
TRYING TO HIDE ITS HAND, BUT WE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF ITS  
REAL OBJECTIVE."  
MCNAMARA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL LEADERS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, CA, (RYAN, CLAUDE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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